



Thursday, December 14, 2006

Published for the Fort Jackson/Columbia, S.C. Community

www.fortjacksonleader.com

Christmas just around the corner



Photo by Chris Rasmussen

Manuela Schafer helps her daughter Selina, 5, get a closer look at an ornament on the Christmas tree in front of Post Headquarters Friday night following the official Fort Jackson Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. For more photos of the event, see page 20.

Post set for Block Leave

Fort Jackson Public Affairs Office

Beginning at 7 a.m., Monday, approximately 7,000 Fort Jackson Soldiers in Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training will depart the post from the MG Robert B. Solomon Center for "Holiday Block Leave 2006," to spend the holiday period with friends and families across the U.S. and around the world.

Fort Jackson transportation planners and travel offices have worked for months to plan a smooth departure for these Soldiers, who will travel by commercial airlines, buses, trains and, in some cases, with family members by privately owned vehicle.

Soldiers will begin returning to Fort Jackson the day after New Year's day, and normal training operations will resume at the Army's largest Initial Entry Training installation on Jan. 4, 2007.

Commercial buses will begin leaving Fort Jackson shortly after midnight Sunday for airports in Atlanta, Charlotte and Columbia — departures will continue through early afternoon Monday.

Gates confirmed as new Secretary of Defense

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 —

The Senate confirmed Robert M. Gates in a 95-2 vote today to be the 22nd U.S. secretary of defense.

Gates will succeed Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who will retain the job until Gates' official swearing-in ceremony. President Bush has not yet announced when that will occur.

As part of his confirmation procedure, Gates testified Dec. 5 before the Senate Armed Services Committee. The war in Iraq dominated the hearing and Gates told the senators he will consider all options in Iraq. Gates said the U.S. is not winning in Iraq, but not losing either. He told committee members the U.S. will need to maintain a pres-



Gates

ence in Iraq for a long time, but that the presence may not be as heavy in combat troops as it is today.

Gates told the senators he believes he can maintain an independent voice as he runs the Defense Department. "I don't owe anybody anything," he said. "I've come back here to do the best I can for the men and women in uniform and for the country in terms of these difficult problems that we face."

The Senate Armed Services Committee unanimously recommended Gates to be the next U.S. defense secretary.

Virginia Sen. John Warner, committee chairman, expressed confidence in Gates' ability to do the job.

"He's going to be a very strong adviser to the president of the United States and to the Congress, and in his heart (he has) only the best interests of

See **Gates** Page 4

Students celebrate hispanic culture



Photo Courtesy of Mary Hammond

Laura Batista, Pierce Terrace Elementary School Spanish teacher, her son, Ramon, 11, wearing a "charro" and first grade members of the Pierce Terrace Folkloric Dance Group perform the Mexican dance "La Raspa" in traditional "Jalisco" dresses during a performance Friday at the school celebrating Hispanic cultures. The performance included dances from Mexico, Puerto Rico and Panama.

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**Leading
the
way ...**



"Soldiers First"

Chaplain School reinforces "Soldiers First" through innovative training.

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Best in Mess

The Commanding General's Best Mess awards were delivered Friday.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING CENTER AND FORT JACKSON
FORT JACKSON, SC 29207

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATZJ-CG

11 DEC 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR All Fort Jackson Personnel

SUBJECT: Holiday Block Leave Safety Message

1. As you prepare for the upcoming holiday season, Rebecca and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to the entire Fort Jackson family and the citizens of our surrounding communities. The holiday season is a time for social gatherings with co-workers, friends and families. It is important that each of you enjoy this well deserved break, but never lose sight of safety for you and yours. Each of you is a valued member of our team and I expect to see you return safely from the holidays.

2. For those traveling during this holiday season, take appropriate precautions. The risk of accidents on our roadways is very real and ever present. Be alert for changing road conditions and traffic congestion. Plan your trip and ensure that you are well rested. Soldiers are required to use the ASMIS-II Privately Owned Vehicle Risk Assessment system to plan their trips, but I would also like to encourage civilian employees and family members to take advantage of this useful planning guide as well. Contact the Installation Safety Office at 751-6004 for assistance.

3. I know that many of you will attend holiday celebrations and I want to remind you never forget that drinking and driving is simply unacceptable in a world class organization such as the United States Army. Intoxicated drivers not only endanger their lives, but the lives of others as well. Take a cab or use a designated driver, but have a plan. The life you save might be your own. If you are using the Fort Jackson club system, ask the bartenders for a free cab ride home, no questions asked!

4. During this holiday season, let's keep those Soldiers currently serving abroad and unable to be home for the holidays in our thoughts and prayers. As you see our Soldiers proudly wearing their uniform, take a moment to say thank you. Freedom is not free, and they serve in order to preserve that very freedom.

6. Happy Holidays, Be smart and return safely!

JAMES H. SCHWITTERS
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Garrison Season's Greetings

Col. Eddie Stephens Jr.

Commander, U.S. Army Garrison

As we come to the end of another busy year, I want to take a little time to share some thoughts with you. This is a time of year when we celebrate the approaching holiday period in the traditions of our collective and individual cultures. Our collective traditions and shared culture are what make us all uniquely American.

The United States, with its vast diverse population and enormous wealth, finds itself in a global conflict on many fronts against an enemy unlike any we have faced in the past. The outcome of this conflict could determine our destiny and that of our children. I believe it will take all of us pulling together to prevail in this conflict. It is at times like this when our nation calls upon men and women in uniform to carry the torch of freedom and do that for which we have been trained. Our Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines and their families sacrifice so much to ensure we remain a free and prosperous nation.

Fort Jackson plays a vital role in this conflict and in providing for the welfare of our nation. Every day we see young men and women of character display the Warrior Ethos as they learn what it means to be a Soldier. They continue a legacy that began here in 1917 of preparing Soldiers to defend the values and ideals of our nation. This is the core mission of Fort Jackson and all we do is measured by how well we support that mission. Everyone has an important role to play as a member of team Jackson. It does not matter what job you perform, men and women who volunteer to serve in our Army provide the reason for your service and the very existence of Fort Jackson.

This past year was one of the most challenging for our Army. Budgetary constraints and the reality of scarce resources required our leaders to impose restrictions on how we do business. Here at Fort Jackson the impact of these restrictions was felt by every leader and employee. We started the year without an approved annual budget and it was not until late in the second quarter that we received a funding letter. Centralized spending authority and metered allotments forced limited workforce reductions and a hiring freeze. We reduced services and used consumable supplies sparingly. For most of the year we operated at an unprecedented deficit. We could



Col. Eddie Stephens Jr.

have easily and justifiably accepted our fate. However, you pulled together as a team, supported our leaders in identifying ways to accomplish the mission while making an overwhelming case for additional resources.

Your efforts and sacrifices were not in vain because the Army senior

leadership recognized the value of what we do here and in the end we finished the year with all the resources we required, and then some. At the end of the past fiscal year, we obligated more funding in every major account than we have in any year in recent memory. We awarded contracts to totally renovate five of our worst barracks, provide new roofs for another four barracks, make improvements to our training ranges, pave some of our worst roads, correct storm drain and sewer problems, install new traffic control devices and improve our family housing infrastructure.

Over the past year, I have witnessed what you can do collectively and individually to make our community a better place to live and work. In the face of severely constrained resources, you continue to make the almost impossible a reality. Your dedication to accomplishing the mission and taking care of people is apparent in all you do. Your efforts, combined with those of citizens in our local community and across our great land, provide the strength and perseverance to get our nation and Army through the current conflict. I am reminded of something one of our leaders said recently, "in this war it does not matter where you sit, everyone has a role to play in order to ensure success."

In the coming days we will surge our efforts to execute the Block Leave mission. We will send our newest Soldiers home for the holidays for two weeks and prepare to receive them back after the New Year. I encourage you to take this break to spend some quality time with your families and friends. Enjoy some of the fruits of your labor and recharge your spirits. Give thanks for our many blessings and be safe in all that you do.

My family and I wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas, joyous holiday season and prosperity in the coming year. Support and Defend and stay Army Strong.

Ask the Garrison Commander

Q Am I authorized to attend a professional development school if I have a temporary profile?

A No. In accordance with Army Regulation 350-1, Soldiers with temporary profiles that prevent full participation in a temporary duty course will be removed from school attendance consideration by their immediate commander until the temporary profile is removed.

Q Is the NCO Club having a New Year's Eve Party?

A The NCO Club will host an annual New Year's Eve Bash partnered with The Big DM 101 FM from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.. Tickets are avail-

able at the NCO Club for \$22 each and Sounds Familiar Music Stores for \$23 or at the door, which opens at 8 p.m., for \$25. Fresh Prince from HOT 103.9 FM will be the host. Bobby Brown will be the disc jockey in the Liberty Lounge and the Jonathan Burton Band will perform in the Excalibur Lounge. The other host in the ballroom will be Vanessa Pendergrass from the BIG DM. Giveaways will occur throughout the evening. Live remotes will take place to include countdown to midnight live on the Big DM. Ticket price includes party favors, finger foods, champagne splits for toasting and a breakfast buffet.

To submit questions for the "Ask the Garrison Commander", call 751-2842, or e-mail nahrwolds@jackson.army.mil.

The Fort Jackson

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Fort Jackson,
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Sullivan touts strength increase, families

Building a larger Army is the key to improving quality of life issues for Soldiers and their families, said a former Army chief of staff who visited Fort Jackson earlier this week.

Retired Army Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan, who left the Army's top post in 1995 and is currently president of the Association of the United States Army, said increasing the number of active duty Soldiers would have the greatest positive impact on the Army community.

"Because the Army is so small, the secretary of defense is being forced to send troops back a year after they come out," he said. "In my view, if the Army could increase its strength, we could start inching that back off to two or three years between tours."

Sustaining families, Sullivan said, is an integral aspect of resourcing the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, just as is recruiting, training, refurbishing equipment and giving leaders what they need to fight.

"Taking care of families is part of resourcing the war," he said. "What kind of facilities will families live in 10 years from now? Balancing the needs of today with the needs of tomorrow is probably the biggest challenge the Army faces."

Sullivan, who served as Army chief of staff between 1991 and 1995, was instrumental in implementing gender-integrated training. During his visit to Fort Jackson, which has the most female Soldiers in Basic Combat Training, the retired Army general observed women training side-by-side with male Soldiers.

"I talked to a couple of them and they were just part of a squad. They seemed happy, alert and ready to do," he said. "Obviously I have been supportive of it since 1994 and I think the Army has moved out, and Fort Jackson has moved out, on this important approach to training. It is frankly the only way to go and I am delighted to see the way it has gone."

During his visit on Monday, Sullivan, toured the Omaha Buddy Team Movement Range and watched the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment go through the course.

"Probably one of the most basic skills you have to learn as a Soldier is to support your comrade to move and attack the enemy," he said. "I was very, very taken by what I saw and the whole philosophy of the training here, which is much different than I remember in the Army."

"It is more of a collaborative effort between the drill sergeants, the officers, the cadre and the trainee based on 'I will show you how to be a professional Soldier' as opposed to standing back and watching the trainee try to learn to be a Soldier," he said. "It is participatory leadership, which I think is very powerful and will pay dividends to the Army."

Chris.Rasmussen@jackson.army.mil

CFC ends with more than \$1.4 million raised

Chris Rasmussen
Leader Staff

Members of the Fort Jackson community reached deep into their pockets this year, helping the Midlands Area Combined Federal Campaign raise more than \$1.4 million for area non-profit organizations.

Announcement of the tally was made Monday during the annual Combined Federal Campaign Victory Luncheon at the Fort Jackson Officers' Club.

"This is an extraordinary event because this is the largest revenue generating campaign in a year that did not include a natural disaster or national state of emergency," said Suzette Adams-Jenkins, co-chairman for this year's campaign.

The annual campaign, which began Sept. 1 and ended Dec. 15, allows Soldiers and federal civilian employees to donate to their favorite charity. Fort Jackson raised \$1.45 million last year, exceeding its goal by more than \$400,000. This year it had hoped to raise \$1.6 million.

Midlands Area CFC grew this past year and now

encompasses Lee, Clarendon and Sumter counties, which includes Shaw Air Force Base.

"Our mission is simple: Ask 100 percent of the federal community to demonstrate their commitment to the community and carry on our country's legacy of greatness," Adams-Jenkins said. "We made a distinction by asking our leaders to lead by example to support the campaign and set the pace for and to encourage staff to follow."

Hilda Salters, Fort Jackson Internal Review and Compliance auditor and a member of the post CFC staff, said she was pleased how this year's campaign went despite not meeting the goal.

"I think the campaign went extremely well overall considering we had limited staffing and it not being a disaster year," she said.

The Combined Federal Campaign was born during the Kennedy Administration from the high number of charities seeking donations from Soldiers and federal employees. The initiative allowed organizations a

chance to seek donations during a specified time.

"The main reason I give to CFC is to help the organizations," said Maj. Michael Johnson, executive officer for the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment. "I have been donating to the CFC for the past 12 years and it makes me feel great to be able to help organizations that give back to our community."

Lt. Col. Kevin Manley, Training Support Brigade commander for the Soldier Support Institute, said he appreciates how easy the Combined Federal Campaign makes it for Soldiers to donate.

"To be able to make donations to several organizations at one time is much more efficient than doing it separately," he said. "I actually really enjoying giving to CFC each year."

Local Soldier programs such as Army Community Services and Child and Youth Services are among the Fort Jackson organizations which may be donated to through CFC.

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New evaluation brigade to test emerging warfighter technologies

FORT BLISS, Texas, Dec. 13 — A new brigade here will test some of the most revolutionary concepts and systems being developed for future warfighters, report how they operate under field conditions, and ultimately speed their fielding to troops on the battlefield.

The new Evaluation Brigade Combat Team being stood up here will test 18 major systems being developed for the

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

Army's Future Combat Systems program, explained Col. Michael Wadsworth, chief of training and leader development for the Future Force Integration Directorate.

"This is the most ambitious and far-reaching modernization the Army has had since World War II," he said.

The program's goal, Wadsworth explained, is to tap into the most advanced technologies possible "to enable Soldiers and leaders to see the enemy first and understand his intentions."

"And once we understand what the enemy is going to do," he added, "we can act first and finish decisively, which is the whole notion of the Future Combat Systems."

The FCS will offer Soldiers detailed battlefield information, provided through

an advanced data and communications network to give them the upper hand in combat. By knowing what the enemy is up to, FCS-equipped brigade combat teams will be able "to act first on their own initiative to defeat the enemy on terms favorable to us," Wadsworth said.

The Future Force Integration Directorate is establishing a blueprint for that future force as it stands up the new Evaluation Brigade Combat Team and uses it as an operational test bed for new systems.

Within the next six months, the brigade team is expected to reach its full strength of just under 1,000 troops.

"Basically, we're standing up an organization to inform the Army if (the FCS program) is doing what we think it will do," Wadsworth said.

As the evaluation brigade, the Future Force Integration Directorate is developing the doctrine, organizational structure, training programs, and tactics, techniques and procedures it will need to operate. Like the systems the brigade is testing, this groundwork will be tweaked along the way to ensure it's on target, Wadsworth said.

"We'll hand the brigade the concepts, get feedback and move forward," he said. "The beauty of this is that we'll have actu-

al Soldiers on the ground with the equipment, and these Soldiers will advise us as we move this concept forward."

The Evaluation BCT will use a mixture of live training, experimentation and simulation to test systems ranging from sensors to automated systems to manned vehicles over the next 10 to 12 years. Testing will be conducted, both here and at neighboring White Sands Missile Range, N.M., through four "spinouts" that will enable the Army to build the new technology over time, Wadsworth said.

During Spinout 1, in fiscal 2008, the evaluation brigade will evaluate five new systems. These include the Intelligent Munitions System; the Tactical Unmanned Ground Sensor, which detects and reports on ground movement; the Urban Unmanned Ground Sensor, which detects motion inside a building; the Non-Line-of-Sight Launch System, nicknamed "rockets in a box"; and a battle command surrogate.

The second spinout, in 2010, will test a series of unmanned aerial vehicles. Spinout 3 will test six varieties of unmanned ground vehicles. The final spinout will evaluate eight kinds of manned ground vehicles that operate from a common platform, as well as the network.

The network is evolving incrementally, with additional sensors added to it with each spinout, Wadsworth explained. The goal is a fully capable, fully equipped Future Combat System brigade combat team supported by a state-of-the-art network in 2014.

But the Army doesn't intend to wait until then to get some of the best new technologies being developed to warfighters in the field, Wadsworth said. Some, including unmanned aerial vehicles that can be carried in a backpack and small unmanned ground vehicles that can carry sensors into buildings, caves and other dangerous spots, are already in limited use in the combat theater.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, Army chief of staff, emphasized the importance of the Future Combat System, and of getting its capabilities into the operational force as quickly as possible, in October during his keynote address at the Association of the United States Army convention in Washington.

"The goal is to enable the Soldiers to see first, understand first, act first and finish decisively," Schoomaker said. "I want there to be no doubt that we are totally committed to fielding the future force, enabled by the FCS."

Around Post

120th AG Battalion to welcome new CSM

The 120th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) will hold an Assumption of Responsibility ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick A. Brown at 1 p.m., today at the battalion headquarters, 1895 Washington Rd.

Santa Claus to visit the Commissary

Santa Claus will visit the Fort Jackson Commissary 4-6 p.m., Friday, 1-4 p.m., Tuesday and 2-5 p.m., Dec. 23. For more information call 751-5789, ext. 300.

DoD Civilian Flu Shots Available

Department of Defense civilian influenza vaccine is now available 8-11:30 a.m. or 1-3 p.m., Dec. 18-20, at the 120th Immunization Clinic. Makeup dates are Dec. 26 and 27. For more information call 751-0356.

Block Leave Holiday Gate Hours

Gate 1: Inbound lane open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily (closed Christmas and New Year's)

Gate 2: Open 24 hours, no change

Gate 4: Open from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., daily (closed Christmas and New Year's)

Gate 5: Open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., daily (closed Christmas and New Year's)

Block Leave Religious Services

Catholic services offered during Block Leave are: 11 a.m. and midnight, Dec. 24, 11 a.m., Dec. 25 and 11 a.m., Dec. 31. All services will be held in the Main Post Chapel.

Protestant services offered during Block Leave are: 9:30 a.m., Dec. 24 and 31 at the Main Post Chapel, 10 a.m., Dec. 24 and 31 at the Daniel Circle Chapel, 11 a.m., Dec. 24 and 31 at the Memorial Chapel and 10 p.m., Dec. 31 at the Daniel Circle Chapel.

Fort Jackson takes on BCT, Warrior Transition Course

Heath Hamacher
Leader Staff

In addition to the Drill Sergeant Program, Victory University, U.S. Army Soldier Physical Fitness School and other proponents already assigned to the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, the post recently received two additional proponents.

On Dec. 1 at 5 p.m., proponency for Basic Combat Training and Warrior Transition Course were shifted here from Fort Benning, Ga.

"One of the largest focuses here for the commanding general is Basic Combat Training," said Jim Walthes, director, Doctrine and Training Development, BCT Center of Excellence. "Receiving these two proponencies has increased the footprint of Fort Jackson."

According to the WTC Program of Instruction, the purpose of the four-and-a-half week course is to "provide Air Force, Navy and prior service personnel a reception and integration process into the Army," including prior service Soldiers returning to the Army after an extended period of time.

The Army proponent system, as established in 1986, "develops concepts, doctrine, tactics, techniques, procedures, organization designs, materiel requirements, training programs, training support requirements, manpower requirements, education requirements,

and related matters for a branch in the Army."

Col. Kevin A. Shwedo, director of Operations, Plans and Training, U.S. Army Accessions Command, said receiving the proponents will help keep training at Fort Jackson more relevant than anywhere in the Army.

"Fort Jackson is responsible for shaping training for every individual Soldier entering the Army," Shwedo said. "What you're going to get is a commanding general and a command sergeant major focusing on keeping BCT and WTC from ever becoming stale. The focus is to maintain relevance in respect to contemporary operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, but also for the future fight."

Shwedo said the move will benefit Fort Jackson, as well as the Army as a whole.

"Other opportunities — smaller, less tangible ones — are minor growth in personnel in establishing a proponency office," Shwedo said. "Not only that, but Fort Jackson can also become a headquarters that allows piloting of new concepts."

"The directorate here is growing leaps and bounds every day and this is part of the Center of Excellence for Basic Combat Training," Walthes said.

Heath.Hamacher@jackson.army.mil

Gates *(continued from Page 1)*

this country and the men and women of the armed forces and their families," Warner said.

Bush nominated Gates to be secretary Nov. 8, the day after the national elections that moved control of both the House and Senate to the Democrats.

"The election has changed many things in Washington, but it has not changed my fundamental responsibility, and that is to protect the American people from attack," Bush said during a White House press conference that day.

Rumsfeld was serving as defense secretary when terrorists hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. He

personally ran to the courtyard of the Pentagon to help those injured in the attack to safety.

He went on to lead DoD as it began fighting back against terrorism, first in Afghanistan, where a small number of American special operations personnel helped the Northern Alliance overthrow the repressive Taliban regime. Rumsfeld also led the department through Operation Iraqi Freedom when 150,000 U.S. and coalition personnel overthrew Saddam Hussein and liberated 25 million people.

Well-Being update

Focus group delves into teen issues

Tanya Brown
AFAP Coordinator

This week's article will focus on issues submitted through the Community FIRST Teen Focus Group. The focus group responses are provided by the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The first issue is a proposed program of "teens teaching parents." The teens feel that some parents don't understand the values and issues of today's generation. There are relationship stressors due to peer pressure, lack of trust and a lack of respect. This lack of understanding will continue to weaken the relationship between teens and parents. The teens recommend the following:

- 1) develop and implement a class to teach parents about teens taught by teens;
- 2) publish a teen advice column for adults in local papers; and 3) create a Web site for parents to receive general information relating to teens.

MWR responded that the Fort Jack-

son Middle School/Teen Program will identify and work with youth to develop a class for parents taught by teens. This will be done during 2007 in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands who are working on a similar project. Information regarding parent/teen issues will be added to the Child and Youth Services portion of the MWR Web site. MS/TP staff will work with youth on articles for submission to

the Leader regarding advice for adults on issues impacting teens. The second issue was the need for a youth sex education program. The Teen Focus Group feels youth are becoming sexually active at a younger age, contracting sexually transmitted diseases and getting pregnant. The focus group said STD rates among teens are rising, as is teen pregnancy. They recommend the following:

- 1) provide teen forums on sex education
- 2) provide sex education at an earlier age beginning with fifth grade and age appropriate
- 3) ensure that sex education classes are more intensive, i.e. caring for infants, preventing sexual assault and youth appropriate relationships.

MWR responds that the MS/TP in collaboration with Family and Soldier Readiness, Army Community Services, will establish classes on topics of interest to youth regarding STDs, teen pregnancy, personal relationships, preventing sexual assault and more. Class content will be clearly identified and parent permission will be required to attend these classes.

The third issue is a need for better role models for teens. The teens feel that schools need to provide and publicize more mentorship programs for youth. Without mentors in their day-to-day lives, teens are more likely to feel a sense of hopelessness. The focus group recommends: 1) provide forums for local success stories to be publicized, because seeing successes from their own area can be a motivator; 2) develop a teen/mentor program similar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters; and 3) publicize this program to the fullest extent using schools, television, radio and print.

MWR states that the MS/TP is work-

ing with BOSS to sponsor more events that will bring teens in contact with young Soldiers in a supervised environment. In addition, the MS/TP director will explore establishing a partnership with Big Brother/Big Sister if feasible.

Thanks to the teens who participated in the forum, and MWR for their research and responses. Fort Jackson will continue to conduct forums such as this to ensure we continue to provide for the needs of youths.

The issues and responses submitted during the first quarter of fiscal year 2007 will be discussed at the next Well Being Action Council scheduled for 2 p.m., Jan. 4 at the Post Conference Room. The community is welcome to attend. If you have any questions or concerns to address to the Fort Jackson leadership, this would be a great opportunity to let your voice be heard.

For a detailed list of issues submitted through the Community FIRST visit the Fort Jackson Well-Being home page at: <http://www.jackson.army.mil/WellBeing/wellbeing.htm>

ICE Appreciation

The garrison would like to congratulate Moncrief Army Community Hospital, specifically the ENT Clinic and the MRI Services Clinic. They have maintained a 4.86 and 4.81 respectively in employee/staff attitude out of a possible 5.0, for a 12-week period. This is an outstanding performance in customer satisfaction. Keep up the good work.

A tip of the campaign hat to this week's ...

Drill Sergeants of the Cycle

From the "Scouts Out" Battalion

Staff Sgt.
Benito Martinez
Company B,
2nd Battalion,
60th Infantry Regiment

Staff Sgt.
Jeremy Frazier
Company C,
2nd Battalion,
60th Infantry Regiment

Staff Sgt.
Brandon Mendoza Company D,
2nd Battalion,
60th Infantry Regiment

Well Being Action Council
2 p.m., Jan. 4
Post Conference Room

son Middle School/Teen Program will identify and work with youth to develop a class for parents taught by teens. This will be done during 2007 in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands who are working on a similar project. Information regarding parent/teen issues will be added to the Child and Youth Services portion of the MWR Web site. MS/TP staff will work with youth on articles for submission to

2006 Military Mail for the Middle East Christmas Mailing Dates

Global Airmail Letters and Cards — Dec. 11
Global Airmail Parcel Post — Dec. 11
Global Priority Mail — Dec. 13
Global Express Mail — Dec. 15
Global Express Guaranteed — Dec. 19

Congratulations new Drill Sergeants

from Drill Sergeant School class 02-07. Their first assignment is listed.

Sgt. Joseph Beyerlin, U.S. Army Reserve
Staff Sgt. Daniel Deal, Fort Sill, Okla.
Staff Sgt. Paul Denson, Fort Lee, Va.
Sgt. Michael Eader U.S. Army Reserve
Staff Sgt. Scott Eddington, Fort Jackson, S.C.
Staff Sgt. Mitchell Finn, Fort Jackson, S.C.
Staff Sgt. Jose Gomez, Fort Jackson, S.C.
Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Hawkins, Fort Jackson, S.C.
Staff Sgt. Toya King, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Sgt. Keith Knittel, U.S. Army Reserve
Sgt. Betty Lukashow, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Staff Sgt. Timothy McWhite, Fort Knox, Ky.
Sgt. Keith Mendiola, U.S. Army Reserve
Sgt. Makesha Minniefield, Fort Lee, Va.
Sgt. William Munoz, U.S. Army Reserve
Staff Sgt. Claudine Ortiz, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Sgt. Jason Pack, U.S. Army Reserve

Sgt. Samer Qirreh, U.S. Army Reserve
Staff Sgt. Cameron Regur, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Staff Sgt. Melissa Rentz, U.S. Army Reserve
Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Robinson, Fort Jackson, S.C.
Staff Sgt. Steven Robinson Jr., Fort Jackson, S.C.
Staff Sgt. Larry Schlink, U.S. Army Reserve
Staff Sgt. Kelly Smith, Fort Jackson, S.C.
Staff Sgt. Alicia Thomas, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Staff Sgt. Juan Valencia, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Sgt. 1st Class Sergio Venegas, Fort Benning, Ga.
Sgt. 1st Class Romairick Whiteing, Fort Benning, Ga.
Sgt. 1st Class Donald Woody, Fort Jackson, S.C.
Staff Sgt. Jason Wright, Fort Benning, Ga.
Sgt. Thomas Yanetsko, U.S. Army Reserve
Sgt. Jared Zinsmeister, U.S. Army Reserve

‘Painting’ a better training picture

Heath Hamacher
Leader Staff

Combat training at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School is as real as it gets.

Say again?

While some might not quickly equate Advanced Individual Training at the Chaplain School with combat operations and realistic battle drills, that is exactly what instructors there preach. Since August, the school has used paintball equipment during its Field Training Exercise in a program called Paintball Integrated Combat Training.

Staff Sgt. John Govaerts, a former instructor at the Chaplain School, remembers firing blanks during the course’s FTX and having Soldiers laugh at the imaginary ammunition.

“I thought, ‘if I could shoot them with a paintball, it wouldn’t be so funny,’” he said. “Some of these Soldiers are leaving AIT and going to Iraq, and that’s no laughing matter.”

So, Govaerts got busy formulating a plan. He conducted research, put together a PowerPoint slideshow and, with the aid of an instructional video, pitched the idea to his first-line supervisor. He said he has

always been told Soldiers should train like they fight, and that should apply to chaplain assistants, too.

“The pitch I gave was when Soldiers are in Fallujah fighting, going house to house and door to door, blanks don’t cut it,” Govaerts said. “In combat we’re really getting shot at, and this is the closest thing to shooting at a Soldier without causing serious injury.”

Cost, which is a typical obstacle, was easily overcome by Govaerts’ presentation. Paintball rounds are a fraction of the cost of blanks, and that makes a difference over the course of a single AIT class.

“It costs the Army \$1,200 to buy 3,200 blanks, which is about what we use per field training exercise,” Govaerts said. “We can buy 4,000 paintball rounds, and it costs the Army \$100.”

After receiving approval, the Chaplain School purchased 34 M-4-styled paintball guns and protective masks. The guns are similar to a real M-4 in both weight and appearance, down to the non-functioning rear sight aperture and folding or “telescoping” shoulder stock.

With 13 AIT classes per year, Govaerts said the program has already paid

for itself, and will continue to save the Army money while giving Soldiers more realistic training.

“When there are rounds coming down range and red splotches all over the HMMWV, you just can’t get that with blanks,” Govaerts said. “There’s an adrenaline rush of a real fire fight and if a Soldier’s hit, he can see where he’s hit. He can see where his rounds are going — there’s an intense realism with this.”

Pvt. Kyle Visconti agrees.

“We took paintball training a lot more seriously; it was absolutely more realistic,” Visconti said. “With the blanks you’re just kind of looking around like ‘where is that coming from?’ but when actual rounds are flying at you, it changes your mindset about it.”

The idea of incorporating this into the training regimen initially came to Govaerts while playing recreational paintball with his children.

“I may have come up with the idea, but that’s it,” Govaerts said. “The leadership at the Chaplain School took the time to consider the idea, and had enough vision and courage to implement it.”

The Soldiers at the Chaplain School are reminded that this equipment is noth-

ing to be toyed with.

“We try to impress upon them they are holding a weapon that has live ammunition,” Govaerts said. “The ball comes out of the barrel at a muzzle velocity of 300 feet per second — that’s as much as what a compound bow fires. We get them in the mindset that this is a real weapon, and not just some toy to play with.”

Pvt. Joanne St. John said the exercise gives Soldiers a lot to think about.

“It forces you to learn how to take cover, gives you an adrenaline rush you don’t experience with blanks,” St. John said.

The first three days of the FTX, Soldiers carry the M-16 and fire blanks. This is the primary weapon for most, Govaerts said, and they need to be familiar with it. But, Day Four brings a critical convoy operation and the live-fire experience that Chaplain School instructors hope will stick in the Soldiers’ memory.

“It’s not a chaplain assistant’s primary mission to go on a convoy, search for bad guys and kill them,” Govaerts said. “But they’re always Soldiers first, and that’s what we’re trying to reinforce — those basic Soldier skills.”

Heath.Hamacher@jackson.army.mil

Safety is always in season

According to the Underwriters Laboratory, product safety testing organization, and the National Fire Protection Association outdoor home decorations add to the spirit of the holidays, but safety experts warn that without proper safety precautions, the dangers of decorating can take the fun out of the season.

“Emergency rooms treat 164,000 ladder-related injuries each year, many of these during the holidays. Falls from ladders and rooftops can cause bruises, sprains, broken bones, severe head and internal injuries, even death,” said John Drengenberg, manager of Consumer Affairs for UL. “And, misused electric lights and extension cords can deliver shocks and create power outages as well as causing serious electrical burns and home fires.”

According to the U.S. Fire Administration “more than 33 million American homes will include a natural tree in their festivities. The USFA stresses the importance of keeping these trees watered. Statically, Christmas trees account for 200 fires annually, resulting in six deaths, 25 injuries and more than \$6 million in property damage.

“Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters or matches start tree fires. Well-watered trees are not a problem, however, dry and neglected trees can be.”

You can find more information on this subject and view eye-opening videos by visiting the USFA Web site at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/safety/tips/treefir.shtm>

The NFPA’s Web site posts these facts and figures about Christmas tree fires in the home.

- On average, one in every 22 reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in a death.
- More than four of every 10 home Christmas tree fires are caused by an electrical problem or malfunction. One in four, or 24 percent, home Christmas tree fires resulted from a heat source placed too close to the tree. Seven percent were started by children playing with fire.
- When equipment was involved in the ignition of the fire, lamps, bulbs or lighting (18 percent), and cords or plugs (13 percent) were cited more often than any other type of equipment. No equipment was involved in 44 percent of these fires.
- Candles were the heat source in 8 percent of the home Christmas tree fires per year between 1999 and 2002.

Wow, who knew decorating your house for Christmas could be so very dangerous.

Christmas trees and decorating

- Check tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over several weeks are easier to ignite. Remember to keep the tree watered at all times.
- Make sure tree stand holds at least one gallon of water. As a general rule, stands should provide one quart

of water per inch of stem diameter. The average six-foot tree has a four-inch diameter trunk and can consume as much as four quarts or one gallon of water per day.

- Clean water is all that is needed to keep the tree fresh. Do not use additives in the water, such as floral preservatives, molasses, sugar, bleach, soft drinks or aspirin.
- Per the base Fire Prevention Regulation (FJ 420-90), live trees are only allowed in government housing units on Fort Jackson. Anyone wishing to use a live tree in their workplace must gain approval from the fire chief.
- Always make a fresh cut to the base of the tree at a slight angle about one inch above the original cut, and immediately place the tree in water or wet sand and brace it securely.
- Choose a sturdy tree stand to prevent the tree from tipping over and one capable of holding at least a gallon of water.
- Artificial trees should be clearly labeled as fire-retardant.
- Never use electric lights on a metal tree.
- Keep tree at least three feet from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other sources of heat. Don’t place the tree where it blocks an exit.
- Use lights and decorations that bear the UL mark. The UL mark means UL engineers have tested samples of the product for potential fire and electric shock hazards. Light strings with UL’s green holographic label are for indoor use only; lights with UL’s red holographic label are for either indoor or outdoor.
- Carefully inspect every electrical decoration before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new decorations.
- Check light strings to determine the maximum number of strings that may be connected. For push-in bulbs connect no more than three strings; for screw-in bulbs connect a maximum of 50 bulbs.
- Don’t overload extension cords.
- Use only extension cords approved for outdoor (exterior) use and always plug them into an outlet which has ground fault circuit interruption (GFCI) protection.
- Don’t hang lights with staples or nails that can damage the cord’s wire insulation.
- Turn off all electrical light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Consider replacing strands of lights more than five years old with newer ones which have fuses to protect against overloading.
- Keep a watchful eye on children and pets as they play around the tree to ensure they don’t play with the wiring or lights.
- Place fragile ornaments near the top of the tree so

kids and pets can’t reach them.

- Keep natural decorations, such as holly/berries, mistletoe and poinsettias out of the reach of small children and pets as they may be poisonous if swallowed.

Ladders

- Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when near power lines and electrical wiring as metal ladders conduct electricity.
- Use the right height ladder, ensuring it extends three feet over the roofline or working surface.
- Set the ladder on a firm, level surface and avoid soft or muddy ground.
- Never exceed the ladder’s weight limit or the maximum load rating.
- Never stand on a step ladder’s bucket shelf. Read and follow the warning stickers for highest standing levels.
- Only one person at a time on the ladder.
- Don’t carry equipment while climbing. Buy a tool belt or have someone hand equipment to you.
- Face the ladder when climbing up or down, keeping body centered between the side rails.

Fire Safety

- Candles should never be used to decorate a tree.
- Always check to make sure the fireplace chimney damper (flue) is open.
- Keep decorations a safe distance away from the fireplace.
- Exercise caution when using fire salts which create colored flames.
- When burning candles, ensure they are in sturdy containers and keep them a safe distance from combustibles.
- Always extinguish candles before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Never burn wrapping paper or evergreen boughs in the fireplace as flash fires could result from the intense burning and jumping sparks.
- The holidays are a good time to replace smoke detector batteries and test them to ensure they are working properly.
- If you have gas appliances or a fireplace in your home, consider buying and installing at least one carbon monoxide detector.
- Using portable gas or kerosene heaters indoors can be deadly and is not recommended. If you use these units please follow the manufacturer’s instructions for safe use and always ensure you have adequate ventilation.
- Always have at least one operable fire extinguisher readily available in your home.

Test your photo skills against the best

Theresa O'Hagan

Morale, Recreation and Welfare

Enter your favorite digital images to compete against the best photographers in the Army in a photography contest sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation Community Family Support Center and Fort Jackson Community Recreation division.

Authorized MWR patrons are eligible to enter. Active duty service members must enter in Division I; all other authorized MWR patrons must enter in Division II.

Official photographs taken for service functions or in the line of duty are not eligible. Employees of the Army Arts and Crafts program are not eligible to enter the contest.

Classes of Competition and Divisions

This structure of classes and categories will apply to both divisions of the competition:

Images will be judged in the following five categories: people, place, object, military life, experimental processes

Division I — Active Duty

Color Digital Images Class (five categories)

Monochrome Images Class (five categories)

Division II — Other Eligible Participants

Color Digital Images Class (five categories)

Monochrome Images Class (five categories)

Contestant Submissions

All images will be submitted in electronic format on a CD or DVD in a hard cover case. Image size: Images must be a minimum of 240 dpi and must be converted to a BMP (bit map) or DIB (Device Independent Bitmap). All images must have a unique title for identification. “Untitled” and JPEG file numbers are not acceptable as entry titles and will be disqualified. Additional descriptive phrases, such as “castle with red sunset” may be added to the “additional info” box on the entry form for clarification.

Multiple entries by the same contestant may be put on the same CD as long as they are clearly identified by name, title, group and category in the image title, i.e. “German Vendor,” Group 1, People, and the CD is labeled with the contestant’s name.

All blocks of the entry form must be completed, or the form will not be accepted. Entries in the experimental category must have an explanation in the remarks block describing the processes used to make the image.

Each eligible patron may enter up to five images per category at the installation level of the contest; entries beyond this limit will not be accepted.

All submissions must be the original work of the con-

testant, made within 24 months of the start of the current contest year. Work entered in previous contest years may not be resubmitted to subsequent Army photography contests.

Awards

Awards will be conferred as first, second and third place in each class and category of the two divisions of the contest. Up to three honorable mention prizes may also be awarded per category. Additionally, each judge may identify one entry for a Juror’s Choice Award, and if all jurors agree, they may select a Best-in-Show prize. Judges are not required to award all prizes in all categories of competition.

Chuck Stoudemire, recreation programmer, Community Recreation division, will assist contestants with forms and preparing proper submissions. Stoudemire can be reached at 751-5768 or 609-5206. Submissions must be given to Stoudemire by noon Friday.

Today

Victory Bingo is 4:30-10:30 p.m. at 12500 Huger St. Play for more than \$25,000 in prizes.

Friday

Play **Victory Bingo** and win prizes up to \$15,000. Guaranteed \$50 pay-outs.

Fridays are dollar nights at **Century Lanes** with shoes, games, hot dogs and soft drinks for \$1 each.

Saturday

Hunt Camp is from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required at Marion Street Station. Cost is \$50 per person and includes: lunch, hunting advice, transportation to and from your stand and help tracking wounded animals.

Please bring a sighted-in rifle, weather-appropriate hunting apparel, rain gear, licenses and post permits. Kids 15 and younger attend for free.

Blacklight bowling makes bowling even more fun with glow-in-the-dark lanes, balls and pins, 9-11 p.m.

Every Saturday come out to the **Excalibur Lounge** in the NCO Club and enjoy music at 9 p.m. with the Big DM. Military cost is \$3 and civilian cost is \$5.

Sunday

Did you know that it is a guarantee for \$4,000 to be given away during **Victory Bingo** every time it’s played? Grab a share, play bingo 12:30-4:30 p.m.

It’s Super Sunday at **Century Lanes**. Bowl for \$1.50 and get shoe rentals for \$1.50.

Monday

Watch Monday Night Football on Magraders Sports Bar’s new plasma screen televisions.

The Officers’ Club **New Year’s Eve Gala** tickets are now on sale at the club.

Tuesday

Interested in qualifying for a free night of bingo? Call 751-3411 for details. Play **Victory Bingo** every Tuesday 6:30-10:30 p.m. and win up to

\$25,000 in prizes.

The Officers’ Club is having a **Southern Style Lunch Buffet** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday

Financial Readiness Class for first-term junior Soldiers from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Education Center.

Be a singing sensation with **Karaoke** at **Magraders Sports Bar** starting at 7:30 p.m.

Enjoy **Mongolian Barbecue, Asian Stir-Fry** at the Officers’ Club. You don’t have to be an officer or a member.

Join the “Beat” 100.1 FM with the sounds of Bobby Brown and the Beat, hosted by Timmy Tim at the **NCO Club** from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Bar opens in **Liberty Lounge** at 5 p.m.; cover charge is \$3 for military and \$5 for civilians.

Ongoing Offers

The Frame Shop is now open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Call 751-4018 for more

information.

The **NCO Club** presents a delicious **breakfast buffet** 6-9 a.m., weekdays. The cost for adults is \$5.50; the cost for children 4-10 years old is \$2.95. The **NCO Club lunch buffet** is served from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., daily. The cost is \$6.50 for adults, \$2.95 for children.

Enjoy **lunch at the Officers’ Club** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays.

Enjoy resort accommodations for two to six people for less than you would pay for most hotels with the **Armed Forces Vacation Club**.

For details and samples of resort availability, call the reservation center at (800) 724-9988. The installation number for Fort Jackson is 164.

Community Highlights

Construction on Strom Thurmond

Construction on the light control modules will continue at the intersection of Marion Street and Strom Thurmond Boulevard, and will continue along Strom Thurmond until all intersections are finished.

Traffic will slow because of lane closures until 6:30 p.m. daily, and law enforcement will be monitoring the areas.

The construction will be completed Dec. 22, and personnel are encouraged to use alternate routes until then.

This Week

Green to Gold Briefing

The University of South Carolina Gamecock Battalion will hold a Green to Gold information briefing from 3:30 to 5 p.m., today at the Education Center.

This program enables qualified enlisted Soldiers and NCOs to become commissioned officers.

The program also includes scholarship, non-scholarship, and active duty options. For more information call 777-3639 or e-mail ousey@gwm.sc.edu or visit www.armyrotc.com.

Thrift Shop

Santa will be visiting the Thrift Shop today and Tuesday.

There will be an end of year blow-out sale Dec. 21, and no consignments will be accepted Wednesday or Dec. 21.

The Thrift Shop will be closed from Dec. 26 through Jan. 5 for the holidays and will reopen Jan. 9. For more information call 783-5481.

DES Santa Parade on Post

Department of Emergency Services will host a Santa Parade at 6 p.m. Friday, beginning at Imboden Street. The parade will go through the housing area and end at the fire station. For more information call 751-1614/1615.

Security Office Closed

The installation security office will close at 11 a.m., Friday for its annual Christmas party.

IG Closure

The Fort Jackson Inspector General Office will close at 11 a.m., Friday for their annual office holiday celebration. If assistance is required, call 751-3247.

SJA Closed

The Fort Jackson Staff Judge Advocate Office will close at 11 a.m., Friday. For

more information call 751-4281.

Museum Holiday Closure

The Fort Jackson Museum will be closed from Tuesday through Jan. 3, and will reopen Jan. 4. Call 751-7419 for more information.

Upcoming

Retired Officers' Wives' Club Meeting

The Retired Officers' Wives' Club will meet at 11:30 a.m., Jan. 10 at the Fort Jackson Officers' Club. The program will be women's health with speaker Cindy Thompson, of Providence Hospital. The cost is \$12 and reservations must be made by noon Jan. 5, call 788-8671 or 782-7038.

WorkKeys Assessment

A WorkKeys Assessment test will be given from 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 22. The test enhances a resume and demonstrates skill potential to employers. The assessment costs \$30, and cash only will be accepted on the day of testing. Candidates must preregister by calling 751-5452.

Starting and Running a Small Business

There will be a free seminar entitled "Small Business Development" presented by USC from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Jan. 23 at the Education Center. Must register to attend, call 751-6062.

Employment Readiness Program Orientation

Anyone seeking employment on Fort Jackson or in the surrounding area should visit the Employment Readiness Program for information about employment, education and volunteer opportunities.

Topics include job search tips, benefits of using employment agencies, the South Carolina Commission office and more. The next class will be from 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 24. For more information call 751-5452.

Financial Assistance/Scholarships for Family Members

This seminar from 9 to 11 a.m., Jan. 26 at the Education Center, will cover information on federal, state and military financial assistance and scholarship programs. Each participant will receive a financial assistance/scholarship guide. Must register to attend, call 751-5452.

Steps to Federal Jobs

This workshop from 1 to 3:30 p.m., Jan. 31 at the Education Center, will go through every step of the Army Resumix process for federal jobs. Must register to

attend, call 751-5452.

Spouse Employment Self Assessment Class

Spouses get out of the house and learn about the various military spouse employment options available, create a resume and develop a career portfolio. The next class will be 9:30-11:30 a.m., Jan. 31 at the Education Center. Call 751-5452 to register.

Weekly

Civil Air Patrol Meetings

Civil Air Patrol is an official Department of Defense organization aligned under the Air Force with a cadet program for youth ages 12-18 and an adult program as one of America's largest volunteer organizations.

The group meets at 7 p.m., Mondays at Owens Field and 7 p.m., Tuesdays at Columbia Metropolitan Airport. For more information e-mail cc@scwg.cap.gov or visit www.scwg.cap.gov.

HEROS Meeting

The Helping Everyone Reach Optimum Strength group is meeting 5-6:30 p.m., Thursdays at Moncrief Army Community Hospital, seventh floor.

It is open to combat veterans and their family members. For information call 751-2492/2245.

Medical Board Office Closed

The medical board office is closed from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursdays, for administrative time and office training. For more information, call 751-0359/7152/7318.

Overseas Travel Clinic

The Overseas Travel Clinic is held from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information call 751-5251.

Parenting Groups

The Moncrief Army Community Hospital's Department of Social Work Services will be conducting two 10-week parenting groups for all valid ID cardholders. Limited space is available.

If you want to attend or are interested in more information, call 751-2235/2216.

Monthly

"Victory Riders" Motorcycle Club

There is a Fort Jackson Motorcycle Club meeting at 5 p.m., the first and the third Thursday of the month at the NCO Club's Liberty Lounge.

Retired Enlisted Association

Chapter 38 meets at 5 p.m., the third



Now playing at the Dollar Theater

Friday

Hey Arnold (PG) 3:30 p.m.
Flushed Away (PG) 7 p.m.

Saturday

Borat (R) 6 p.m.

Sunday

A Good Year (PG-13) 2 p.m.

Dec. 22

Let's Go To Prison (R) 6 p.m.

Dec. 23

Happy Feet (PG) 6 p.m.

Dec. 29

De Ja Vu (PG-13) 6 p.m.

Dec. 30

Casino Royale (PG-13) 6 p.m.

You can also call 751-7488 or go online to www.aafes.com for movie schedules.

Friday of each month at Moncrief Army Community Hospital, third floor conference room.

All enlisted retirees and active duty pending retirement personnel are encouraged to attend. Call 740-2319 or e-mail jrodgers10@sc.rr.com

Seabee Meetings

The Navy Seabee Veterans of America will hold a meeting at 7 p.m., the second Monday each month at the West Columbia Metro Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center.

Call 755-7792 or 755-0300 for more information.

Gift of vocabulary

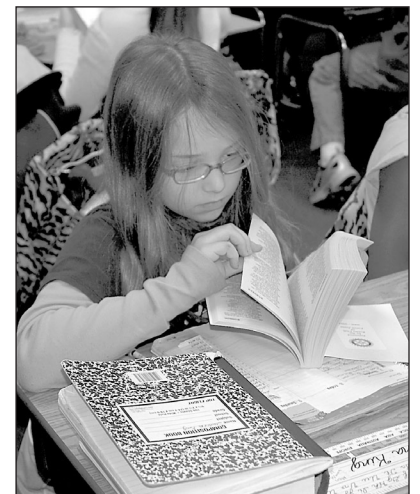


Photo by Nichole Riley

Savannah King, 9, looks at the new dictionary she and all third graders attending Hood Street Elementary School, received Dec. 7 from The Forest Acres Rotary Club.

Community Highlights

282nd Army "Victory" Band holiday concert



Photo by Nichole Riley

The 282nd Army "Victory" Band held the annual Fort Jackson holiday concert Dec. 10 entertaining the audience with a number of holiday songs and featuring two guest singers — Jennifer Leja and Elisabeth Graham, above.

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Chapter 402 of the Order will meet at 7 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The meetings will be at American Legion Post 6 at 200 Pickens St. For more information call 776-3117.

Rear Detachment Training

Army Community Service Mobilization and Deployment Readiness Program Rear Detachment training is held monthly at Bldg. 2179, Room A-12. RD training is also online at www.myarmylifetoo.com.

Units can schedule an appointment by calling 751-5256/7489 or e-mailing Guillory.Patricia@jackson.army.mil.

Military Widows/Widowers Association

The meetings are at 2 p.m., the fourth Sunday of each month at Moncrief Army Community Hospital, eighth floor. For information call 787-2469.

Announcements

Vehicle Registration Hours Extended

Starting today, Vehicle Registration will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The extended hours are being offered to help with the long lines at year end and will end Jan. 3.

There will be limited personnel registering vehicles during these hours. Personnel can still register their vehicles

after duty hours at the 5499 Jackson Blvd. For more information call 751-3981.

Recruiting Army Broadcast Specialists

The Army is seeking active duty Soldiers from private to sergeant to reclassify as Public Affairs broadcast specialists, MOS 46R.

Potential recruits must have a 107 GT score, secret clearance or interim secret and must be deployable.

In this MOS, Soldiers will learn television, radio, announcing and writing skills. Interested Soldiers will have to take a voice audition, and can call (703) 325-2578 for information.

AER Scholarship/Grants

Army Emergency Relief has a state-side Spouse Education Assistance Program (SEAP) effective with Academic Year 2007-2008.

This program is for the spouses of active duty and retired Army Soldiers and the widows and widowers of Soldiers to assist spouses in furthering their education to afford them increased occupational opportunities.

The scholarships are grants and awarded based on financial need and will be awarded annually. The scholarships are for undergraduate courses only at a post-secondary or vocational institution approved by the U.S. Department of Education.

This program is not open to spouses who already have an undergraduate degree. Applications are available to download online at www.aerhq.org. Read

the Instructions carefully before applying. For more information, call (703) 325-2091 or e-mail diann@aerhq.org.

Fire Prevention - Test and Inspect

The Fire Prevention office reminds family housing residents to test and inspect the smoke detector, carbon monoxide detector and stove top fire suppression system monthly. To test the detectors, hold in the test button until the alarm sounds. To inspect the suppression system, verify the needle is in the green, the pin is not in the extinguisher and there are no obstructions around the cables and the pulley.

If the alarm does not sound or if there is a problem, contact the housing maintenance office immediately at 787-6416 for replacement. For any questions call 751-1610/5239.

ROTC Lateral Entry Program

Qualified prior service or members of the National Guard or reserve who wish to become an officer may find the answer with the University of Illinois Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program.

The Lateral Entry Program allows eligible students to contract into the Reserve Officer Training Corps as cadets when they are academic juniors, seniors or graduate students with four semesters of coursework remaining before graduation.

Call toll-free at (877) 863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu, or visit the Web site at <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc/> for more details.

Fort Jackson Commissary Holiday Hours

Dec. 24 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 — Closed
Dec. 26 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Dec. 31 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jan. 1 — Closed
Jan. 2 — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Government Leave Transfer Program

There is an urgent need for donated annual leave for employees who continue to be affected by Hurricane Katrina.

For the Emergency Leave Transfer Program leave donation form, visit http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opm1638.pdf. For more information call 751-6426.

Family Readiness Group Registration

Fort Jackson ACS Family Assistance Center receives a high volume of calls from deployed Soldiers' family members requesting information or wanting to join a Family Readiness Group at Fort Jackson. Help support our Soldiers and family members by registering your FRG with ACS Mobilization and Deployment Program. For information e-mail Guillory.Patricia@jackson.army.mil or call 751-7489.

Traditional folk arts project



Courtesy Photo

Fifth grade students from C.C. Pinckney Elementary School perform a folk dance as part of the study of colonial American early dances. This project was one of two traditional folk art grants awarded by the South Carolina Arts Commission, and is part of the PatriARTS project.

Ask the MEDDAC commander

Getting health care while on Block Leave



Col. James Mundy

Q I am an Initial Entry Training Soldier. If I need care while on Block Leave, what should I do?

A This is a very timely question. I hope that you have a very safe, healthy and fun time during Block Leave; however, it is always good to be prepared and know what to do if care is needed. Each Soldier will be given a medical fact sheet by their unit before they leave from Fort Jackson.

Should you need care, use the following guidance:

For emergency care (potential loss of life, limb or eyesight) call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Emergency care for true medical emergencies does not require prior authorization before treatment.

If an emergency room visit happens, call or have someone from your family call the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO) within 24 hours toll free at (888)-647-6676.

From the selected menu options, select medical care pre-authorization assistance or the customer service option.

For urgent/acute care that cannot wait until you return to Fort Jackson, go to the nearest Military Treatment Facility or Veterans Administration Hospital.

Call your nearest U.S. Army Recruiting Office or the

local American Red Cross for assistance in locating the nearest MTF. If no MTF is available within 50 miles of your home, call the MMSO toll free at (888)-647-6676 and select the medical care pre-authorization assistance or customer service option. Care must be authorized before you get urgent/acute medical care from a civilian facility or provider.

If you have any problems or questions, call (803) 751-2572 during regular duty hours.

If hospitalized at a civilian hospital, contact the MMSO at (888)-647-6676. Select the report admission or customer service option and provide information regarding the circumstances.

They will report your admission to the Patient Administration Office of the nearest Military Treatment Facility as soon as possible.

Pharmacy

While you are traveling, your prescriptions may be filled at a TRICARE network pharmacy. Present your written prescription and your uniformed services identification card.

To find a TRICARE retail pharmacy, call toll-free (866)-363-8779 or visit their Web site at www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE.

Q I am a permanent-party Soldier and my family and I will be traveling during the holidays to visit family. We are enrolled in TRICARE Prime to Moncrief Army Community Hospital.

What do I need to do if one of us needs care while away?

A It is always a special treat for our active duty families to be able to travel during the holidays to visit family.

Know that TRICARE Prime travels also, and if you follow the guidance, you will not have to worry about ending up with medical bills should your family need care while away.

If you have Internet connectivity, access TRICARE information 24 hours a day, seven days a week online at www.tricare.mil.

Urgent care services are medically necessary services required for an illness or injury that would not result in further disability or death if not treated immediately.

However, urgent care requires professional attention and should be treated within 24 hours.

Receive urgent or acute care at the provider of your choice while traveling.

However, you must obtain a referral from your primary care manager, call (803)-751-CARE or contact a beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator at (800)-444-5445 to avoid paying claims under Point-of-Service.

If you would like to submit a question for Ask the MEDDAC or DENTAC Commander, call 751-2061 or e-mail Nakia.Hall@se.amedd.army.mil.

Pharmacy

Refill prescriptions online at <http://www.moncrief.amedd.army.mil/>. Look for "Pharmacy Refills Online" on the right side of the Web page.

The Post Exchange Refill Pharmacy is the only site to pick up refills called in or ordered online.

MEDDAC requires a signed authorization form to be completed before a spouse, family member or friend can pick up someone else's prescriptions.

Main Outpatient Pharmacy: open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., weekdays (in the MACH basement).

Refill Pharmacy: open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekdays (in the Post Exchange

Annex).

Main Outpatient Clinic 751-2385

Refill, Voice 751-4609

Refill, Automated 751-2250

Toll-free refill (866) 489-0950

Gastric Bypass Support Group

The Gastric Bypass Support Group will meet at 6 p.m., the second Tuesday of the month in the MACH eighth floor waiting room. For more information call 751-0392.

This is not just for weight loss patients; all interested are welcome to attend.

Adopt a Pet

Call the veterinary clinic for informa-

tion 751-7160/5132 on adopting a cat or dog.

Medical Records

Medical records are the property of the U.S. government and must be turned in at the Medical Records Station upon enrolling at MACH. Call 751-2471 for a copy of records.

Soldiers to be treated at Hagen Dental Clinic

All Fort Jackson permanent party dental records have been transferred to Hagen Dental Clinic.

Soldiers with scheduled appointments will be treated there, and those reporting for dental sick call may do so 7:15-10 a.m. and 1:15-2:30 p.m., weekdays. Any

questions regarding this change, call 751-5820.

MACH UCC Holiday Schedule

MACH will close at 9 p.m., Dec. 24 and will reopen at 3 p.m., Dec. 25. If you have a condition that cannot wait to be treated, go to the nearest emergency room. Then inform the MACH staff about being treated during the closure by calling 751-2160.

TRICARE Online

Beneficiaries enrolled in TRICARE Prime at MACH can schedule an appointment 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.tricare.mil or www.moncrief.amedd.army.mil.

Responsibility: protecting guests from holiday excess

Sandra Barnes

Army Substance Abuse Program

Everyone appreciates the opportunity that holidays bring to gather with friends and family. Holidays are festive times of laughs and memories in the making. However, holiday parties are sometimes interrupted by alcohol-related disturbances or even tragedies. Taking a few common sense precautions can help prevent such occurrences.

Traditionally, alcohol has been a big part of holiday celebrations, but today we know there is danger in providing “open bars” to everyone. The percentage of alcohol and drug related traffic incidents increases dramatically during this time of year.

If you are the host of a holiday gathering, be sure to provide non-alcoholic beverages for guests who are driving. Prepare plenty of food, so guests will not drink on an empty stomach, and avoid too many salty foods which tend to make guests thirsty.

Never serve alcohol to guests under the legal drinking age, and never ask chil-

dren to serve alcohol. Make it clear that no drug use will be tolerated.

If you choose to serve alcohol, offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages for those who prefer not to drink alcohol.

If you prepare an alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base, like fruit juice. Alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream faster with a carbonated base.

Don’t let guests mix their own drinks. Choose a reliable bartender who abstains from alcohol while working and keeps track of the size and number of drinks that guests consume.

Stop serving alcohol one hour before the party ends, because only time sobers a person who has been drinking.

If some guests have too much to drink, drive them home or arrange for alternate transportation. Keep the phone numbers of several cab companies handy. Don’t let anyone who is obviously intoxicated drive. If they insist, take their keys, ask for help from other guests, or temporarily disable the car.

A great idea is to collect the keys upon arrival, attach them to a gift or door prize (all within viewing), and return them to

ASAP Calendar of Events

The Fort Jackson ASAP *Unit Prevention Leader of the Year Award* is designed to recognize outstanding performance by the best Unit Prevention Leader on Fort Jackson.

UPLs must qualify for the award by conducting a flawless urinalysis collection, passing urinalysis inspection, having a Standard Operating Procedure and providing four hours required annual training to Soldiers in their unit.

Editor’s Note: *The Army Substance Abuse Program provides*

prevention/education to the community on topics pertaining to alcohol and other drug usage.

ASAP maintains a wide selection of pamphlets and videos that can be used to get a further understanding of the dynamics of substance abuse and use. ASAP staff is available to give presentations on alcohol and drug abuse. For questions about classes offered or about substance abuse, call 751-5007.

the owner before to leaving. If a person is intoxicated, implement one of the above back-up plans, and return the keys at a later time. If all else fails, call the police.

Remember: Impaired drinking can occur with very low blood alcohol percentages. For most people, even one drink

can affect driving skills.

Coffee cannot sober up someone who has had too much to drink. Only time can do that. It takes one hour to metabolize one drink.

If you have any questions about substance abuse, please call 751-5007.

Legal

Soldiers to help Soldiers at Fort Jackson Tax Center

Capt. Chris Roten

Legal Assistance Attorney

As 2006 ends and you are preparing for block leave and the holiday season, be aware that the tax year is coming to a close and tax returns will be due soon. The 2006 tax year will officially close Dec. 31, with highly motivated individuals able to file their tax returns beginning Jan. 1.

Tax returns normally must be postmarked by April 15. However, since that day falls on a Sunday in 2007, 2006 tax returns must be postmarked by midnight, April 16. Taxpayers can file their return by mail or electronically anytime between Jan. 1 and April 16.

The U.S. Army has a program known as the “Tax Center” where Soldiers volunteer to help other service members and retirees prepare tax returns. Any Soldier who has taken advantage of this program, at either Fort Jackson or another military installation, can attest to its validity and helpfulness. The biggest advantage is that assistance and knowledge is free for all service members and retirees. Soldiers who have been trained by the Internal Revenue Service will operate the Fort Jackson Tax Center.

More information about the Tax Center and instructions on getting taxes prepared by a Soldier will be published in The Leader in January. However, while on block leave, take a few moments to

think about who will prepare your taxes and when you will file.

Here are a couple issues that might be important to you as you consider coming to the Fort Jackson Tax Center.

What do I need to bring to have my taxes prepared at the Tax Center? Some of the information needed includes, but is not limited to, (1) a valid Social Security card for all family members, (2) federal wage forms (W-2s), (3) interest statements, (4) investment dividend forms, and (5) the previous year's tax returns. Other important information may include bank/investment statements and any other income statements. In addition, homeowners should provide information relating to property taxes and interest paid on their homes and mortgages.

What if I don’t file by the deadline? If you file your return after April 16, the IRS may assess late fees and interest due on your federal taxes. If late fees, penalties and interest are assessed, you still have the option of requesting fees and interest be withheld in writing. The IRS has sole discretion to grant a withholding of fees and interest. A better option would be to file before the deadline, or file an extension.

How do I file for an extension? If you absolutely cannot file before April 16,

IRS form 4868 is available from the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, and allows taxpayers to request a six-month extension to file their federal tax returns. Service members who are concentrating on training and mission requirements may wish to file an extension if they feel they may need extra time. It is also a good idea, even if you plan on filing near the deadline, to protect yourself from additional fees and interest. There is no penalty involved in filing an extension, and once you file an extension you may file your federal tax returns at any date before your extension deadline.

Can someone else file my taxes for me? You can give another individual the authority to file your tax return. This is especially appealing and useful to service members married to non-service members, who are filing or plan on filing a joint return. Although most general powers-of-attorney grant your agent the authority to file tax returns, the IRS has a specific Form 2848, which is also available online from the IRS. Form 2848 does not require notarization and is the preferred power-of-attorney by the IRS for federal tax returns. Similar to all powers-of-attorney, make sure you completely trust a person to whom you grant any authority to act in your name. In granting this power to someone, remember, you will remain responsible for the tax return

Legal Assistance Office

Fort Jackson’s Legal Assistance Office is located in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 9475 Kershaw Rd, and is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays. Appointments can be made by calling 751-4287.

The office accepts walk-ins for living wills, health care powers of attorney and durable powers of attorney, 1:30-3:30 p.m, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Walk-ins are welcome for general legal questions are accepted 9-11:30 a.m., Fridays.

filed by your agent.

The 2006 Tax Center at Fort Jackson will open in mid January and stay open through April 16, and serves active duty, retirees and all other eligible individuals. The center will have extended business hours in January to accommodate everyone wishing to file an early tax return and in April for those trying to beat the deadline. The exact duty hours and location of the Fort Jackson Tax Center will be in a January edition of The Leader as well as advertised on post.

The broken antler, arrival of the King

Chaplain (1st Lt.) Jack (Brad) Borders
1st Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment

It's late fall and for me and my son, that means spending long hours together in the woods of North Carolina, waiting patiently— and sometimes in my son's case, not so patiently — for that one big buck deer to show himself.

One day this week, I was reading in my ground blind and around the corner of the creek, that one big buck deer did show himself. I waited for the right moment, and let a round from my .308 go flying. The deer immediately went down. I was so very thankful. My heart raced at the thought of a full freezer and those long hours of preparation rewarded. That was until I got up to retrieve the big guy.

Through my binoculars I could tell he was at least an eight pointer. For those that don't know, that is a good deer. My buddies met me by the creek and we went to the spot where I shot him ... nothing.

We looked for any blood on the ground, nothing. Then my friend Robbie said, "Hey dude, there's his horn!"

On the ground was lying one broken antler. I was nauseous. I had shot his antler off. How did I shoot that high?

We looked around and by now there were four of us, including my buddy who is our local wildlife officer, with camera in hand to record the moment. But we were robbed of that. I found a sapling about one inch in diameter that had a brand new horizontal crease through the bark. My round had struck the tree and caused the bullet to veer upward.

I never saw it from 80 yards away. Something so small caused me to miss what I had been longing for. I was so close, but so far. All that being said it's closing in on Christmas. In the church we call it advent, or the arrival of the King. Long ago God decided to invade this world not with an Army, but with a zygote in the womb of a 14-year-old girl. People had been longing for the arrival of Messiah, yet only a few really saw this miracle for what it was. Most were looking for a warrior King, (by the way, he will come in that role someday). But because of very little things like wrong attitudes, desire for power, and a temporal rather than eternal focus, most missed it even though God himself put a real, unbelievable, miracle sign in the sky to announce his invasion.

But only some shepherders and some stargazers from down east really got it. I pray that we'll get it this year and not let something so small change our trajectory that we ought to have our hearts waiting in glorious anticipation for the arrival of the King.

Worship services

- Protestant**
- Sunday 10 a.m. Daniel Circle Chapel (Gospel)
8 a.m. Tank Hill Chapel (Hispanic)
9:30 a.m. Vanguard Chapel
9:45 a.m. Post-wide Sunday School (Post Chapel)
11 a.m. Memorial Chapel
9:30 a.m. Main Post Chapel
11 a.m. Chapel Next
Chaplain School
- PROTESTANT BIBLE STUDY**
- Monday 7 p.m. Women's Bible Study (PWOC - Post Chapel, Class 209)
 - Wednesday 7 p.m. LDS Bible Study (Tank Hill Chapel)
7 p.m. Anderson Street Chapel
7 p.m. Daniel Circle Chapel
7 p.m. Gospel Congregation's Youth (Daniel Circle Chapel)
 - Thursday 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study (PWOC - Post Chapel)
6 p.m. Neighborhood CMF/OCF Bible Study (Call 790-4699)
 - Saturday 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast (Post Chapel, (every second Saturday of the month in Chapel Fellowship Hall))
- PROTESTANT YOUTH OF THE CHAPEL**
- Sunday 5 p.m. Daniel Circle Chapel (1st & 3rd Sundays)
 - Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Post Chapel

Lutheran/Episcopalian

- Sunday 8 a.m. Memorial Chapel

Islamic

- Friday 12:30-1:45 p.m. Jumah Services (Post Chapel, classrooms 213)
- Sunday 8-10 a.m. Islamic Studies (Post Chapel, classrooms 213)

Church of Christ

- Sunday 11:30 a.m. Anderson Chapel

Catholic

- M-F 11:30 a.m. Mass (Post Chapel)
- Sunday 8 a.m. Mass (Solomon center)
11 a.m. Mass (Main Post Chapel)
10:15 a.m. CCD (Education Center)
10:30 a.m. Adult Inquiry
11:30 a.m. Catholic Youth Ministry
- Wednesday 7 p.m. Rosary
7:30 p.m. RCIA/Adult Inquiry

Jewish

- Sunday 9:30-10:30 a.m. Memorial Chapel
10:30-11:30 a.m. Jewish Book Study (Post Conference Room)

Latter Day Saints

- Sunday 11:30 a.m. Tank Hill Chapel

Addresses, phone numbers

Daniel Circle Chapel — 3359 Daniel Circle, Corner of Jackson Blvd., 751-4216
Post Chapel — 4580 Strom Thurmond Blvd., corner of Scales Ave., 751-6469
Tank Hill Chapel — 9476 Kemper St., 751-4292
Family Life Center — 9476 Kemper St., (inside of Tank Hill Chapel), 751-4542 or 751-4101
Anderson St. Chapel — 2335 Anderson St., Corner of Jackson Blvd., 751-3883
Ed. Center — 4581 Scales Ave.
Vanguard Chapel — 4360 Magruder Ave., 751-5712
120th Rec. Bn. — 1895 Washington St., 751-5086
Memorial Chapel — 4470 Jackson Blvd., 751-7324

Calling all prayer warriors

Main Post Chapel, Room 213, noon on Thursdays, to intercede for our nation's military and families.



The following are selected incidents developed from reports, complaints, incidents or information received from the Fort Jackson Provost Marshal's Office.

The incidents reflected are not an adjudication attesting to the guilt or innocence of any person and are provided for informational and reflective purposes only.

Lt. Col. Greg Vibber

Director, Emergency Services/Provost Marshal

Master Sgt. Allen Taylor Jr.

Provost Sergeant

Cases of the Week

A retired Soldier was charged with **Shoplifting** after he was observed removing a video game in the Power Zone and exiting the store without rendering proper payment. The retiree was issued a suspension of AAFES privileges and released.

A Soldier was charged with **Wrongful Use of a Controlled Substance**, when during a command directed urinalysis he tested positive for the presence of Tetrahydrocannabinol, the active ingredient in marijuana. He was released back to his unit pending disciplinary action by his commanders.

The Provost Marshal's Office was notified of **Larceny** at Kennedy Hall

after investigations revealed an unknown person removed 45 DVDs from the facility. The estimated cost of loss is \$1,300.

Provost Marshal Tip of the Week

You can prevent identity theft and fraud. To reduce or minimize the risk of becoming a victim of identity theft or fraud, there are some basic steps you can take. For starters, just remember the word "SCAM:"

S — Be **stingy** about giving your personal information to others unless you have a reason to trust them, regardless of where you are.

C — **Check** your financial information regularly, and look for what should be there and what shouldn't.

A — **Ask** periodically for a copy of your credit report.

M — **Maintain** careful records of your banking and financial accounts

What should you do if you become a victim of identity theft? Act immediately to minimize the damage to your personal funds and financial accounts, as well as your reputation.

Contact the Directorate of Emergency Services at 751-1384 if you have discovered you've become the victim of identity theft.

FORCE PROTECTION THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

EMPLOY RANDOM ANTITERRORISM MEASURES (RAM)

- Random, multiple security measures
- Change look of installation's security program
- Defeat surveillance attempts
- Difficult to predict our actions

Sports Banquet fetes post athletes

A ceremony was held Tuesday at the MG Robert B. Solomon Center honoring Fort Jackson athletes.

Joe Nemechek, NASCAR driver of the No. 01 Army Chevrolet, accompanied by his mother, Martha, was the guest speaker at the 4th Annual Fort Jackson Sports Banquet, held in recognition of the more than 1,200 Soldiers who participated on 120 intramural teams, individual sports

and special athletic events on post this year.

While Nemechek was the guest speaker and Soldiers hung on his every word, he said much of his enjoyment came from listening.

“It’s neat, especially coming to different bases and telling my story — what I’ve done,” Nemechek said. “But, what has been truly interesting about driving

the Army car is hearing stories from each individual Soldier about what he’s done, why he’s done it and the experiences he’s had. That’s just incredible to me. Most of these folks love racing, and I just try to tell them about racing and how it relates to what they do. It’s all very similar, but yet it’s different. But I think it gives them a good idea of the workings of NASCAR.”

Following a lunch and Nemechek’s speech, individual awards were handed out and the presentation of the Commander’s Cup was made to the Victory Brigade, which took the traveling trophy from last year’s champs, the 187th Ordnance Battalion.

Heath.Hamacher@jackson.army.mil

Sports Banquet Awards

- Commander’s Cup — VIC BDE
- Coach of the Year — Staff Sgt. Tracy Brooks, 3-13
- Volunteer of the Year — Cindy Scarcelli
- Flag Football — Sgt. Carlos Martin, MEDDAC
- Volleyball — Capt. Jason Perez, TSB
- Basketball — Sgt. 1st Class Eric Dawson, NCO Academy
- Staff Sgt. Maurice Sloan, 3-13 (averaged 22 points per game)
- Spc. Anthony Lee, 1st BDE Headquarters (scored 50

- points in a single game)
- Maj. Davie Wright, 1-13
- Command Sgt. Maj. Marion Mike, 1-13
- Staff Sgt. Michael Brizan, 187th Ord. Bn.
- Capt. Kasia Krul, VIC BDE
- Staff Sgt. Greg Mosher, TSB
- Sgt. 1st Class Brett Scarcelli, Recruiting and Retention School

2-39 blanks SSI, snares flag football title

Heath Hamacher
Leader Staff

The 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment’s flag football team seemed to relish the underdog role during the season. During last week’s playoffs, the team’s just-play-the-game attitude and defense culminated in a 13-0 shutout of the Soldier Support Institute, earning it the post championship Dec. 7 at Hilton Field.

Shawn Dillon, battalion sports officer, 2-39, said his team is comprised of drill sergeants who don’t work “banker hours,” and had to get their practice in during games.

“I know other teams complained about people not showing up for practice, but we never had a practice,” he said. “We simply came out and beat each team based on their strengths and weaknesses versus ours. That’s why we typically came out slow in the first half until our player/coach, James Jackson, identified the other team’s holes.”

In the championship game against SSI, 2-39 carried a 7-0 lead into halftime, courtesy of a 1-yard touchdown run by quarterback Michael Broner. On the previous play, a 17-yard strike to Frank Wooten was initially ruled a touchdown, but then was spotted at the 1-yard line. On the conversion, Mark Clark took the pitch into the end zone,

and the score turned out to be all 2-39 would need.

SSI moved the ball well at times and frequently visited 2-39’s red zone, but each time a combination of penalties and big defensive plays prevented it from scoring. Both teams, in fact, were penalized early and often.

“Our defense played with a great deal of poise, overcoming numerous penalties and setbacks,” Dillon said. “The combination of blitz, quarterback containment and a talented secondary facilitated this shutout and was responsible for most of our wins this year.”

2-39 would add a touchdown late in the second half when Richard Fulton hauled in a deflected pass in the end zone, effectively sealing the deal for his team.

The infantrymen entered the playoffs with a modest 5-3 record, but made an immediate impact, ousting MEDDAC, 32-19, in the first round. They then beat the Marines, 19-12, paving the way for the showdown with SSI.

“We always get destroyed by these non-BCT units in other sports, so it was nice to finally get a championship,” Dillon said.

Heath.Hamacher@jackson.army.mil

Sports Briefs

Basketball

Letters of intent for 2007 Intramural Basketball are due today at the Fort Jackson Sports Office. Anyone interested in the preseason basketball tournament should contact the Sports Office at 751-3096.

Softball Coach Needed

The Fort Jackson Sports Office is currently accepting applications for the post-level men’s softball team head coaching position. Active duty Soldiers have priority in the selection process, which includes a panel and interview with the sports coordinator, recreation manager and the Community Recreation Division chief.

The selected head coach will select his or her assistant coach prior to the first post-level try out sessions. If interested, submit resumes no later than Jan. 17 by e-mailing *Cindi.Keene@jackson.army.mil*, faxing 751-5771 or hand-carry to the

Sports Office located at the Hilton Field Softball Complex, from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. For more information call 751-3096.

Sports Club Interest Meeting

A Sports Club Interest Meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Jan. 18 at the Youth Center for anyone age 13-18. For more information call 751-5610/5040.

Spring Youth Soccer Registration Open

Registration for youth (3-18) soccer begins Jan. 2 and ends Feb. 1. The fee is \$30 for the first child, \$27 for additional children, and includes a jersey, shorts, trophy and end of season pot luck. Games begin Feb. 24. A skills assessment for age 9 and up and a free soccer clinic will be held 6 p.m., Feb. 6. Players must be registered with Child and Youth Services. For more information call 751-5610/5040.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Community gathers at Post Headquarters to celebrate the start of the holiday season



Photos by Chris Rasmussen

A large crowd braved frigid temperatures Friday evening to witness the annual Fort Jackson Christmas tree lighting. Children and adults sang holiday carols and enjoyed cookies and hot coffee provided by the Fort Jackson Post Exchange, while being entertained by the 282nd Army "Victory" Band.



Choirs from Hood Street and C.C. Pinckney elementary schools entertained the crowd with several Christmas songs including "Here Comes Santa Claus" and "O' Come All Ye Faithful."



Maj. Paula Smith, Moncrief Army Community Hospital, and her daughter, Ava, 4, watch as Smith's son Harley, 10 months, meets Santa for the first time.



Capt. James Umbarger, 4th Combat Training Brigade, and his daughter Grace, 3, await the arrival of "Old Saint Nick" during the Fort Jackson Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday.



Rabbi Phillip Silverstein, led the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony prayer Friday at Post Headquarters.



Hood Street Elementary School choir members, from left, Victoria Miller, Savannah Langley, Taylor Harris and Breanna Valenzuela share a group hug during their performance Friday evening at the Fort Jackson Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.